

ABSTRACT

The Cultural Resource Group of Louis Berger & Associates, Inc. (Berger), has conducted Phase I archaeological investigations of three proposed stormwater basins/stockpile areas and two wetland replacement areas, and Phase II archaeological investigations of the Ford Farm Site, Locus E (7K-C-386E). The Ford Farm Site and the Phase I survey areas are located within the proposed Scarborough Road corridor from McKee Road to U.S. Route 13, in Kent County, Delaware. The work was carried out in accordance with a proposal prepared under Parent Agreement No. 729-2, for the Delaware Department of Transportation, Division of Highways.

The Phase I archaeological surveys included the excavation of 173 close-interval shovel tests placed within the three proposed stormwater basins/stockpile areas and the two wetland replacement areas. Recoveries included only isolated finds of historic and prehistoric artifacts. None of these finds indicated the presence of more substantive remains nearby.

The Phase II investigations were designed to delineate the extent and depth of buried occupations that had been encountered during a previous Phase I study at the Ford Farm Site. The Phase II excavations at the site consisted of 19 shovel tests, six 1x1-meter test units, three 1x2-meter test units, three expanded 1x2-meter test units, one 2x2-meter test unit, and two Phase I unit extensions measuring 30x50 centimeters each. The Phase II investigations provided evidence of a very sparse scatter of prehistoric artifacts in both plowzone and subplowzone contexts. The subplowzone occupations at the site consist of Woodland I (Early Woodland and probable Archaic) period components, defined by Marcey Creek, Wolfe Neck, and Dames Quarter ceramics, and a deeper but very sparse lithic scatter lacking diagnostic artifacts.

The spatial patterning of these artifacts seems to indicate that the Woodland I component is concentrated near the southern end of the site. The deeply buried lithic scatter is also confined to the southern portion of the site. In the western portion of the site, artifacts were found only in the plowzone and in the B-horizon immediately below the plowzone. Field investigations identified no features in any part of the site, and reevaluation of a feature identified during the previous, Phase I, investigation revealed it to be a tree root stain, extensive in area but devoid of artifacts. The diagnostic lithic artifacts recovered include one projectile point of probable Woodland I (Late Archaic/Early Woodland) affiliation. The ceramic wares recovered all appear to be Early Woodland. It is noteworthy that several Woodland I (Early Woodland) ceramic wares are represented in a very limited collection.

It is the opinion of the investigator that no sites meeting the criteria of eligibility for the National Register of Historic Places were located in any of the Phase I survey areas, nor does the Ford Farm Site (7K-C-386E) appear to be eligible for the National Register. Based on the negative findings in all three stormwater basin survey areas and the two wetland replacement survey areas and the limited Phase II findings at Ford Farm, it is recommended that no further work be undertaken for this project.

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Robert Wall directed the Phase II effort and wrote the present report. Martha Bowers and Philip Pendleton contributed the historical background information for the project. Invaluable assistance in the field was provided by Field Supervisor Henry Holt and Crew Chiefs Doug Tilley and Jim Skocik. Field logistical support was provided by Charles Dunton. The field crew consisted of Charles Bedall, Teresa Brannon, Joelle Browning, Dawn Corbett, Andrea Denight, Heather Fener, Dave Gilmour, Keith Googins, Dell Gould, Brian McAllister, Sara Rakus, Catherine Skocic, Paul Stansfield, and Keith Young.

Ludomir Lozny examined the stone tool assemblage and contributed his expertise in lithic analysis. Robert Wall conducted the ceramic analysis and completed the final lithic analysis. Historic artifacts were analyzed by Meta Janowitz, Mallory Gordon, Christy Roper, and Gerard Scharfenberger. Laboratory processing and the cataloging of artifacts were supervised by Sharla Azizi and performed by laboratory technicians Matthew Doherty, Sau Chun Wong, and Magdalene Lozny. Data entry was accomplished by Rudy Alexander Ortiz. Drafting of the graphic material for this project was conducted by Victor Reynolds and Jacqueline Horsford. Rob Tucher and Josh Lasco produced the plates that appear in the report. Editorial assistance was provided by Valerie Moore and Suzanne Szanto.